

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

MORE ON GOD'S LOVE IN CHRIST

God's merciful and gracious love for unworthy sinners is the main theme of the Bible. Since this love is revealed and given in Jesus through His life, death, and resurrection, the person and saving work of Jesus is the precious center stone of the Bible. The prime directive for children of God is to grasp the wonder of His love, "to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God" (Eph. 3:19).

The love of Christ is faithful. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). It is painful when people betray us or go back on their word. But you can be sure that Jesus will never do either. He will not leave you, turn His back on you, or fail to fulfill His promises to you. God's love in Christ is faithful, reliable, and steadfast. You can count on it.

The love of Christ is long-suffering. "But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life" (1 Timothy 1:16). I have lost my patience many times, and so have you. When we lose our patience, we think, feel, say, and do things we ought not toward our loved ones. But Jesus has perfect patience. His attitude and response to us are always right, loving, and good. Even on our worst days and darkest moments, Jesus is patient with us because He loves us.

The love of Christ is compassionate. "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin." ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:15-16). It is hard to truly put ourselves in someone else's shoes and understand where they are coming from, how they are feeling, and what they are going through. As we mature, God helps us to sympathize and empathize with others, but it takes time. Jesus, however, completely understands us. He sympathizes with us in our sufferings, trials, weaknesses, and temptations. He did not sin, but He understands the plight of sinners and is always ready to show compassion in our time of need. In the hour of despair, when your heart is hurting, cry out to Christ for heavenly compassion.

Scan the QR code to read more articles like this or visit timeintheword.weebly.com.



ONLINE GIVING

If you would prefer to give online, please scan the QR code for a secure online giving option.



NEED HELP?

Need help with a practical need? Your deacon is here to help make the resources of the church available to you. Email our secretary Jenn if you do not know who your deacon is (secretary@NorthHarford.org)

Danny Akers daneakers@gmail.com

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Need a pastoral visit for prayer, comfort, or encouragement? Do you need Christian counselling or guidance? Do you have a theological question? Your pastors are here to help. Don't be afraid to text, call, or email us. We are here for you. Either contact us directly or schedule something through Jenn.

Matt Fortunato (Senior Pastor)

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Scan the QR code or email Jenn at info@NorthHarford.org to sign up for weekly Bible Devotions from Pastor Matt.



Nursery Workers – October 12th

I AM (Crib) – Penny Brown and Colleen Good

II AM (Toddlers) – Matt/Jennifer Evans and Sarah Evans

PM– Combined I/II – Linda Mack and Marie Reid

Prayer Intercessor – October 12th– Meg Fornoff

Greeters – October 12th — Andrew and Jennifer Evans

Ushers – October 12th — Brian Akers*, Bradyn Citro, Bill Fornoff, Richard Perrine, Bill Tomlinson*, and Donny Wetters

Today's Ushers — Gil Brown, Josiah Brown, Mark Evans*, Wesley Evans*, Mark Huna, John Steplowski

* ushers who greet in the lobby



**NORTH HARFORD
BAPTIST CHURCH**

To live for Jesus and not ourselves.

October 5, 2025

Prayer Meeting

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

6:30-7:15 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

READING THE BIBLE IN 2025

This week's readings are:

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| ☐ Ezekiel 1-5 | Proverbs 1:1-19 |
| ☐ Ezekiel 6-10 | Proverbs 1:20-33 |
| ☐ Ezekiel 11-15 | Proverbs 2:1-15 |
| ☐ Ezekiel 16-20 | Proverbs 2:16-22 |
| ☐ Ezekiel 21-15 | Proverbs 3 |

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service* (Church/Facebook)
After Church	3:00PM	Christmas Choir Practices (downstairs)
	6:30 PM	Youth return from Youth Retreat
		Evening Worship* (Church/Facebook)
Tuesday	9:15 AM	Precept Ladies' Bible Study
Wednesday	9:30 AM	Men's Prayer Group
	7:00 PM	Adult Bible Study (Rm. 1)
		Boys Bible Club (1 st -6 th grade boys)
		Girls in Action (1 st -6 th grade girls)
		Youth on Mission (7 th —12 th graders)
Friday	7:00 - 9:30PM	Youth Group

* Nursery Provided (birth-3 years old), Downstairs in Rooms 8 and 9

MORNING WORSHIP

Call to Worship and Announcements

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Reading: 2 Peter 3:1-7, The Day of Judgment

You Are God Alone | How Firm a Foundation

Offering

SERMON: The Salvation of Noah
Genesis 6 (Pew Bible Page 37)

Lord's Supper* | *My Worth Is Not in What I Own*

Closing Prayer | *Doxology*

*Baptized believers may participate in the Lord's Supper.

PRAYER MEETING

Tonight from 6:30-7:15 PM, we will have our monthly Prayer Meeting. We meet downstairs in the Fellowship Hall around tables. No one will be forced to pray. Nursery will be provided.

*** If you are able, please help set up tables and chairs for the Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Study after the Evening Service. Thank You! ***

THE WAY OF SALVATION

The salvation of your soul is extremely important to us. We want you to experience the love and forgiveness of God through faith in Jesus. We don't ever want to give you the impression that all you need is religion and doing good deeds. "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'" (John 14:6).

1. **God** - Do you acknowledge God's authority, that He made the world, made you, and will bring everyone to judgment? (see Ecclesiastes 12:14)
2. **Sin** - Are you convinced of your sin and guilt before the eyes of God, grieved at your wrongdoing, and humbled by God? (see Psalm 51:1-4)
3. **Salvation in Christ** - Do you believe in the gospel of salvation in Christ? That is, do you grasp that He alone is Mediator? That He alone is righteous? That He alone died as a substitute for sinners? That He rose and is the only source of eternal life? (see 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
4. **Saving Faith** - Do you trust Jesus to forgive your sins and save your soul by the grace of God, not because of your good deeds or religion? (see Ephesians 2:1-10)

VISITING WITH US?

We are glad to have you with us this morning, and we hope God speaks to your heart through the great and wonderful truths of the Bible. Please visit the **Guest Resources** desk in the lobby, where you will find a variety of free gifts for you, including a study Bible for adults and a study Bible for teens. Email us at info@NorthHarford.org if you have any questions or special prayer requests.

WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

CHRISTMAS CHOIR - CALL FOR SINGERS

We need singers for our Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 7th, at 6:30 PM. Dave and Ruth Good will lead a time of congregational singing accompanied by a choir of youth, from 7th grade and up, and adults. The choir will also perform a few pieces. They practice in the Fellowship Hall for 30 minutes immediately following the worship service.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

All children aged 3 through 6th grade are invited to participate in a children's choir! Practices will be on Sundays from 12:10-12:30 PM, in Room 1 immediately following worship, starting **October 5th** through December 1st. See Becky Fortunato or Kenzi Wilson with questions.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Our men's prayer group meets in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30AM-10:00AM every FIRST and THIRD Wednesday. The next meeting is this Wednesday. Come when you can for encouragement and prayer. *This is a great opportunity for fellowship for retired men who don't work during the day.*

YOUTH RETREAT

The youth will return to the church today at 3 PM. Please pray for the youth and leaders.

ON THE HORIZON

MEN'S MINISTRY'S WILD GAME FEAST

Bring what you caught, hooked, shot, or bought to be cooked on the grill or bring it already grilled to share—let's try it all! Saturday, October 11th, at 4:30 PM at Brian Akers' home. Pastor Russell Blubaugh from Rushing Wind Church in Lonaconing, MD will be the guest speaker. Russell is also the West Virginia State Elder for Bikers for Christ and Chapter Elder for Western Maryland. God used Steffan Carr's ministry at Bruce Outreach and the basketball camp ministry to bring Russell to Christ. The sign-up on the sheet in the lobby.

CHURCH NEWS

A LOSS IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Betty Farrington went to be with the Lord on Friday morning. Her services will be held at the church on Friday, October 10th, with a time of visitation at 10 AM followed by the funeral at 11 AM. There will be a meal at the church following the interment. If you can help provide food for the lunch, please contact Remona Fletcher. Please keep Jerry and family in your prayers.

MUSIC LEADER POSITION

In the budget for 2026, there is a new position called music leader. The prayer is for a leader over this ministry with the proper spiritual gifts and leadership experience. Right now, the pastors schedule the rotation and choose the songs, but there is no further training, equipping, or practice. The desired music leader will not only do the scheduling but also will be able to (1) lead practices and work with the various teams and individuals for growth (2) implement other instruments and recruit other singers or accompanists, (3) work in conjunction with a choir to use during worship, and (4) have the time and ability to find new songs for the rotation and teach them to the teams and church. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Matt directly.

BCMD ANNUAL MEETING

If you would like to be a Messenger of our church to represent us at the annual meeting of the Baptist Convention of Maryland / Delaware, please let Jenn or one of the pastors know by Oct. 22. The meeting is Nov. 10-11 at Ocean City, MD. More here: <https://bcmd.org/event/the-gathering-2025/>

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP IN THE DIFFERENT AREAS OF LIFE SEMINAR

Dr. Michael Erickson, a friend and colleague of Pastor Matt, is hosting a one-day seminar entitled *Christian Leadership in Ministry, Family, Workplace, & Life Settings: Fundamentals & Skills of Leadership in the Project Management of Life* on Saturday, October 11th, at Upper Cross Roads Baptist Church. Visit <https://www.crossroadsbi.org/courses> for information and registration.

OCTOBER MAGAZINES

Please help yourself to the magazines and devotionals in the magazine racks on either side of the lobby and downstairs by the exit.

SEPTEMBER GIVING

General Fund: \$48,335.21	HVAC Project: \$ 11,341.59
Benevolence: \$900.40	
Baltimore Rescue Mission: \$1,530.00	
Lottie Moon: \$200.00	Mission Dignity: \$310.05
Other Missions: \$475.80	
Total: \$63,093.05	Budget: \$44,033.77

GriefShare

We are hosting a 13-week GriefShare Program. This is a faith-based program designed to help those in the grieving process. The cost of the book is \$20. Scholarships are available. They will meet in the Youth Café on Wednesdays from 6:30 –8:30 PM beginning October 15th. Scan the QR code to register. See Robyn Smith with any questions.



NEW MINISTRY: FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER VIGIL FOR AMERICA

Join us outside in front of the youth building (or inside if raining) from 6-7 PM every FIRST FRIDAY of the month for a time of focused prayer for America. November 7th is the next one. We will also sing praise songs and hear from God's Word. We will have light refreshments and practical tools to help us pray for our nation in our own time. Please block out these 12 hours for the whole year and join us in calling upon God for revival, reform, and spiritual awakening in Harford County and the whole nation. Prayer is a powerful spiritual weapon that I want to see our church and especially our leaders, embrace and trust more and more.



Ladies, save the date for our annual bonfire at Jeanne Akers' house! It will take place on Friday, November 7th, at 7:15 PM, following the church's First Friday Prayer Vigil for America. Bring a snack to share, a chair, and a blanket. Jeanne will have chairs available, also. Rain date is November 14th.

AM Sermon: The Salvation of Noah

Genesis 6

Remember that God is a just Judge and a gracious Savior.

1. Societal Corruption

- a. The _____ of mankind (1-4)
- b. The _____ of mankind (5-6, 11-12)
- c. _____ judgment (7, 17)

2. Salvation of Noah

- a. _____ from God (8)
- b. _____ in God (9-10)
- c. _____ to God (14-22)